

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
FDRE-00 HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-02
SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-08 IO-13 AGRE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
SSO-00 OES-06 EUR-12 /074 W
-----211622Z 046170 /50

O 211510Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4726

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT AU PRINCE 1431

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, HA
SUBJECT: DROUGHT IN HAITI

REF: (A) STATE 82946, (B) STATE 46743

1. SUMMARY: THE GOH HAS ACTED RAPIDLY TO ADDRESS ITS ENERGY PROBLEMS AND SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS ARE UNDER WAY. IT IS ALSO MAKING A SIGNIFICANT EFFORT TO ADDRESS FOOD SHORTAGES BY IMPORTING FOOD AND SELLING IT AT CONTROLLED PRICES IN COMMERCIAL MARKETS. IT IS COOPERATING WITH FOREIGN DONORS TO DETERMINE AND ADDRESS THE RELIEF NEEDS OF THE RURAL POOR. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI QUICKLY ACQUIRED GENERATORS TO HELP SOLVE THE ENERGY CRISIS. IT PAID \$2.2 MILLION FOR FIVE GENERATORS OF 2 MW EACH, WHICH ARE NOW HERE AND SCHEDULED TO BE ON LINE BY APRIL 25. IT OPENED A \$1.9 MILLION LETTER OF CREDIT FOR FOUR GENERAL MOTORS GENERATORS OF 2-1/2 MW EACH WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AND BE PLACED IN SERVICE IN MID-JULY 1977. THE TWO SHIPMENTS OF NEW GENERATORS WILL PROVIDE THE AREA WITH 20 MW OF
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POWER IN ADDITION TO THE AVERAGE OF 7 MW AVAILABLE FROM THE DOWNTOWN PLANT, FOR A TOTAL OF 27 MW. INASMUCH AS NORMAL DEMAND IS 34-35 MW, THE INSTALLATION OF THE SECOND SHIPMENT OF GENERATORS BY MID-JULY SHOULD REDUCE ENERGY SHORTAGES TO A TOLERABLE INCONVENIENCE. ALSO, THERE HAS BEEN SOME RAIN IN THE WATERSHED AREA OF THE PELIGRE DAM AND IT IS HOPED THAT THE HYDRO ELECTRIC

PLANT WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SOME POWER DURING AT LEAST PART OF THE DAY. THE GOH HAS ALSO LICENSED MORE THAN \$1 MILLION OF GENERATOR IMPORTS BY BUSINESSMEN. THE ARRIVAL OF THESE UNITS IN PERMITTING INCREASING NUMBERS OF FACTORY OWNERS TO RESUME FULL PRODUCTION, THEREBY INCREASING EMPLOYMENT. MEDIUM TERM EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ENERGY PROBLEMS INCLUDE THE ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF A 21 MW THERMAL ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT WHICH SHOULD BE ON LINE IN ABOUT A YEAR. THE 21 MW PLANT IS BEING FINANCED BY THE WORLD BANK AND THE PROJECT INCLUDES SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK. LONGER TERM GOH EFFORTS INCLUDE A RECENTLY SIGNED \$50,000 CONTRACT BETWEEN A U.S. CONSULTANT (TAMS) AND THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS. THE STUDY IS TO BE UNDERWAY BY MAY 1 AND INVOLVES INSPECTING THE PELIGRE DAM AND RELATED FACILITIES WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING ITS STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SCOPE OF WORK APPROPRIATE FOR A SECOND CONTRACT FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE FACILITIES AND WATER RESERVOIR. A HYDROLOGICAL STUDY OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, A FEATURE OF WHICH IS THE IDENTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE SOURCES OF HYDRO ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANTS. THE WORLD BANK IS PERFORMING A SURVEY OF VARIOUS ENERGY SOURCES AND A REPORT IS EXPECTED.
(TO BE READY IN JULY).

3. THE GOH HAS BEEN IMPORTING FOOD SINCE OCTOBER. ABOUT 22,000 TONS OF RICE, WORTH ABOUT \$5.5 MILLION, UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE BEEN IMPORTED TO DATE. IT IS BEING DISTRIBUTED THROUGH COMMERCIAL MARKETS AND HAS SERVED TO REDUCE PRESSURE ON RURAL FOOD STOCKS AND LIMIT PRICE INCREASES.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER DONORS. CANADA IS CONSIDERING A LOAN OF GENERATORS SIMILAR TO THOSE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. IT IS ALSO REVIEWING FOOD REQUIREMENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT CAN MEET SPECIFIC NEEDS. THE EC MAY CONTRIBUTE SOME FOOD BUT IT WOULD PROBABLY ARRIVE TOO LATE AS IT DID IN 1975.

5. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE KNOWING THAT ADDITIONAL TITLE II COMMODITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED. SHOULD WE DETERMINE THAT THERE IS A REAL NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD AND THAT IT COULD BE DISTRIBUTED IN AN EFFECTIVE AND CONTROLLED PROGRAM, WE WOULD ASK FOR IT. THE COUNTRY TEAM AND THE VOLAGS HAVE AGREED ON A PLAN OF ACTION DESIGNED TO AVOID SOME OF THE ERRORS AND WASTE OF THE

1975 FOOD EMERGENCY PROGRAM. THIS INCLUDES:

A) OBTAIN BETTER DATA ABOUT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUFFERING AND WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED. THE AMBASSADOR AND AN AID OFFICER VISITED THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST WITH THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ON APRIL 18 TO SURVEY THE SITUATION.

B) PERSUADE THE GOH TO LEGALLY ESTABLISH A DISASTER AUTHORITY AND PROVIDE A SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION.

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SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-08 IO-13 AGRE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

C) PERSUADE THE GOH TO APPOINT A WELL-QUALIFIED EMERGENCY RELIEF DIRECTOR AND CREATE AN AD HOC EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE DIRECTOR.

D) PERSUADE THE GOH TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO PAY FOR TRUCK AND BOAT RENTALS TO HAUL FOOD TO THE DISASTER AREAS. WE ESTIMATE THAT THE THIRTY TRUCKS NEEDED PER DAY PLUS LABOR AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES WOULD COST ABOUT \$1 MILLION OVER A TEN MONTH PERIOD. (WE EXPECT CONTINUED HARDSHIP IN THE NORTHWEST UNTIL THE NEXT HARVEST IN EARLY 1978.)

E) PERSUADE THE GOH TO APPOINT A FULL TIME TRANSPORT COORDINATOR WITH THE AUTHORITY TO MANAGE AND PAY FOR TRANSPORT SERVICES.

F) OBTAIN WAREHOUSE SPACE IN PORT AU PRINCE, GONAIVES,
AND IN THE DISASTER ZONES.

G) OBTAIN MONEY TO PAY FOR INCREASED VOLAG EXPENSES.

6. DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD APPROVED
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FOR CARE TO AUGMENT FOOD FOR WORK ACTIVITIES IN
THE NORTHWEST (REF B) STARTED IN EARLY APRIL FROM
EXISTING CARE STOCKS. DUE TO THE SEVERITY OF THE
SITUATION, IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE DIRECT RELIEF-TYPE
DISTRIBUTIONS IN SELECTED AREAS FOR THE FIRST FEW
WEEKS. BOTH CARE/HAITI AND GOH MAKING SIGNIFICANT
EFFORTS TO CONVERT FROM DIRECT RELIEF DISTRIBUTIONS
TO FOOD FOR WORK PROJECTS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: DROUGHT IN HAITI
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